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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,113	01/05/2004	Anna T. Riegel	54458-20001.00	1351

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MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP  
755 PAGE MILL RD  
PALO ALTO, CA 94304-1018

EXAMINER
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GODDARD, LAURA B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1642

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/21/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,113

Applicant(s)

RIEDEL ET AL.

Examiner

Laura B. Goddard, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-17 and 22-53 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18,20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The Amendment filed December 18, 2006 in response to the Office Action of August 18, 2006, is acknowledged and has been entered. Previously pending claims 18 and 19 have been amended. Claims 18-21 are currently being examined.

### ***Priority***

2. Applicants amended the specification to disclose that the instant application is a continuation of PCT/US02/21066, filed 7/3/2002, which claims benefit of priority to US Provisional Application 60/302,648, filed 7/5/2001. The Bib Data Sheet will be amended to reflect the priority status of the instant application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a WRITTEN DESCRIPTION rejection.

The claims are drawn to an isolated nucleic acid sequence that encodes a **steroid receptor coactivator amplified in breast (AIB1) protein isoform, wherein said isoform contains a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein.**

The specification discloses that AIB1 isoforms include but are not limited to deletion mutants, addition mutants, and splice variants of the wild-type protein. Isoforms can be identified, for example, by an altered molecular weight or by an altered level of expression in breast cancer tissue and other tissues and cell lines (p. 2-3, [0014]). The specification discloses  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 as a splice variant of the AIB1 which is a steroid coactivator. The  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 splice variant lacks exon 3 (SEQ ID NO:3) and  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 protein is a significantly more effective coactivator of estrogen, progesterone and EGF signaling as compared to the wild type AIB1, providing a role for  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 in hormone and paracrine signaling in breast cancer.  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 is overexpressed in breast tumor and prostate tumor tissue (p. 3, [0014-15]; Figure 9). The  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 splice variant is an N-terminally truncated version of AIB1 that has lost most of the predicted dimerization domains and thus is more promiscuous with respect to potential interaction partners. Overexpression of  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 potentiates nuclear hormone (ER, PR) and growth factor (EGF) induction of transcription to a much greater extent than full-length AIB1 ([. 8, [0038]). The specification discloses several properties of  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 protein (p. 8-10, [0039-0041]). The specification does not disclose any other AIB1 protein isoforms (which may comprise any deletions, any additions, and any splice variants) containing a

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deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein as broadly encompassed in the claims.

To provide adequate written description and evidence of possession of a claimed genus, the specification must provide sufficient distinguishing identifying characteristics of the genus. The factors to be considered include disclosure of complete or partial structure, physical and/or chemical properties, functional characteristics, structure/function correlation, methods of making the claimed product, or any combination thereof. In this case, the only factor present in the claim is a recitation of "AIB1 protein isoforms containing a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein". Accordingly, in the absence of sufficient recitation of distinguishing identifying characteristics, the specification does not provide adequate written description of the claimed genus.

Drawn to DNA arts, the findings in University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co., 119 F.3d 1559, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997) and Enzo Biochem, Inc. V. Gen-Probe Inc. are relevant to the instant claims. The Federal Circuit addressed the application of the written description requirement to DNA-related inventions in University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co., 119 F.3d 1559, 43 USPQ2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997). The court stated that "[a] written description of an invention involving a chemical genus, like a description of a chemical species, 'requires a precise definition, such as by structure, formula, [or] chemical name', of the claimed subject matter sufficient to distinguish it from other materials." Id. At 1567, 43 USPQ2d at 1405. The court also stated that:

a generic statement such as "vertebrate insulin cDNA" or "mammalian insulin cDNA" without more, is not an adequate written description of the genus because

it does not distinguish the genus from others, except by function. It does not specifically define any of the genes that fall within its definition. It does not define any structural features commonly possessed by members of the genus that distinguish them from others. One skilled in the art therefore cannot, as one can do with a fully described genus, visualize or recognize the identity of the members of the genus. A definition by function, as we have previously indicated, does not suffice to define the genus because it is only an indication of what the gene does, rather than what it is.

Id. At 1568, 43 USPQ2d at 1406. The court concluded that “naming a type of material generally known to exist, in the absence of knowledge as to what that material consists of, is not a description of that material.” Id.

Finally, the court addressed the manner by which a genus of cDNAs might be described. “A description of a genus of cDNAs may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of cDNAs, defined by nucleotide sequence, falling within the scope of the genus or of a recitation of structural features common to the members of the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus.” Id.

The Federal Circuit has recently clarified that a DNA molecule can be adequately described without disclosing its complete structure. See Enzo Biochem, Inc. V. Gen-Probe Inc., 296 F.3d 1316, 63 USPQ2d 1609 (Fed. Cir. 2002). The Enzo court adopted the standard that “the written description requirement can be met by show[ing] that an invention is complete by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics ....i.e., complete or partial structure, other physical and/or chemical properties, functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed

correlation between function and structure, or some combination of such characteristics.” Id. At 1324, 63 USPQ2d at 1613 (emphasis omitted, bracketed material in original).

The inventions at issue in Lilly and Enzo were DNA constructs per se, the holdings of those cases are also applicable to claims such as those at issue here.

Thus, the instant specification may provide an adequate written description of AIB1 protein isoforms containing a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein, per Lilly by structurally describing representative AIB1 protein isoforms containing a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein or by describing “structural features common to the members of the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus.” Alternatively, per Enzo, the specification can show that the claimed invention is complete “by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics, functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or some combination of such characteristics.”

In this case, the specification does not directly describe AIB1 protein isoforms containing a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein useful in the claimed invention in a manner that satisfies either the Lilly or Enzo standards. Although the specification discloses the  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 splice variant that lacks exon 3 (SEQ ID NO:3), this does not provide a description of the broadly claimed AIB1 protein isoforms containing a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein that would

satisfy the standard set out in Enzo because the specification provides no functional characteristics coupled to structural features.

Further, the specification also fails to describe AIB1 protein isoforms containing a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein by the test set out in Lilly because the specification describes only the  $\Delta 3$ -AIB1 splice variant that lacks exon 3 (SEQ ID NO:3). Therefore it necessarily fails to describe a representative number of such species.

Thus, the specification does not provide an adequate written description of AIB1 protein isoforms containing a deletion of exon 3 in the amino terminus of the AIB1 protein that is required to practice the claimed invention.

4. All other rejections and objections recited in the Office Action mailed August 18, 2006 are hereby withdrawn.

5. **Conclusion:** Claim 19 is allowed. Claims 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, written description.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. ' 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED



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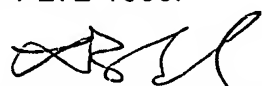
STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. ' 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura B. Goddard, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-8788. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shanon Foley can be reached on 571-272-0898. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
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Laura B Goddard, Ph.D.  
Examiner  
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